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Woodward reporting

He takes off 'editor' hat to chase a story

Bob Woodward of Watergate fame may have the title of assistant managing editor, but he's still a reporter at heart.

Monday, Washington Post readers found Woodward's byline on a front page exclusive: a story saying the CIA helped Iraq in its war with Iran by providing details of Iranian defenses even while the United States was selling weapons to Iran.

"He seems to be just as ahead of the pack in Irangate, as in Watergate," former Boston Globe editor Tom Winship said Monday.

"Bob is the best reporter in the country," said Watergate colleague Carl Bernstein, a close Woodward friend. "Bob and myself remain outsiders in official Washington, and it helps our reporting."

Woodward, 43, one of 14 as-



By Robert Deutch, USA TODAY
WOODWARD: Reported on CIA intelligence aid to Iraq

sistant managing editors at the Post, commands the 12-person investigative unit dubbed the "swat team" by executive editor Benjamin Bradlee.

Woodward demurs when asked about his reporting of the Iran-contra connection.

"Some of the best reporting on this story has been done by Walter Pincus of the Post,"

says Woodward, "and I would give him much of the credit for realizing the significance of the story as soon as it broke and following it every day since."

Woodward, a twice-divorced father of a 10-year-old daughter, Tali, lives in a six-bedroom home in the posh Georgetown section of Washington, D.C., with Post reporter Elsa Walsh and her dog, a Lhasa apso.

A self-described "lousy golfer," Woodward just sold a 45-foot yacht. Another diversion is the occasional poker game.

But there isn't time for many diversions — he hasn't golfed in four months. A Woodward book about CIA Director William Casey is due out next year, "so he was very cued into the CIA," said Post staffer Ron Kessler, author of a book on Saudi billionaire Adnan Khashoggi, a prime character in the Iran arms deal. "There's no question he has good sources — often of high rank."

— Steve Marshall